

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00636 131007Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

-----131011Z 027773 /20

R 130903Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4835

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: GOP AGREES TO MEET WITH MUSLIM REBEL RETURNEES RE  
TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 571 (NOTAL)

1. GUIDED MEDIA ANNOUNCED JAN 13 THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS INSTRUCTED DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY CARMELO BARBERO TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF RECENTLY CREATED MORO REFORM LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MRLM) CONSISTING OF MUSLIM REBEL SURENDEREES. ACCORDING PRESS, MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY POSSIBLY ON JAN 20 IN RESPONSE TO MRLM DEMAND SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL). PRESIDENT MARCOS INSTRUCTED BARBERO TO DETERMINE WHETHER MRLM DEMANDS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE PUT FORWARD BY MNLF (AND LIBYANS) IN TRIPOLI. BARBERO REPORTEDLY DREW ATTENTION TO "FRAGMENTED GROUPS OF REBELS IN MINDANAO" AND SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH, I.E. NOT MERELY THE MRLM REPRESENTATIVES.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 00636 131007Z

2. MRLM (INCORRECTLY DESIGNATED MRLF IN REFTEL) CONTINUES TO GET HEAVY PUBLICITY BUT TONE EDITORIAL COMMENT DIFFERS. COLUMNIST BATALLA OF BULLETIN TODAY OBSERVES THAT APPEARANCE OF MRLM "IS CERTAIN TO TEST THE METTLE AND, MOST ASSUREDLY THE PATIENCE OF BOTH SIDES OF THE NEGOTIATION TABLE. IT IS AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION TO AN ALREADY COMPLICATED SITUATION. IT

COULD DRAW UNEXPECTED REACTIONS FROM COL. QADHAFI...  
AS WELL AS FROM LEADERS OF THE INFLUENTIAL ISLAMIC  
CONFERENCE." HOWEVER, VALENCIA OF DAILY EXPRESS  
OBSERVES APPROVINGLY THAT QADHAFI AND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
"CANNOT IGNORE" MRLM LEADERS, PICTURED BY HIM AS BATTLE  
PROVEN WARRIERS IN CONTRAST TO MISUARI AND MNLF EXILES.

3. COMMENTS REFTEL APPLY. MARCOS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY  
ATTEMPT TO USE "DEMANDS" OF MRLM MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM  
HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH GOP FOR SOME TIME, TO  
FACILITATE TICKLISH TASK OF ACHIEVING WATERED DOWN  
"AUTONOMOUS" SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO CHRISTIANS.  
HOWEVER (PER BATALLA'S COMMENT) BY CREATING MRLM, GOP  
APPEARS TO BE RUNNING CONSIDERABLE RISK OF ALIENATING  
AND CONFUSING BOTH GENUINE REBELS AND ISLAMIC  
CONFERENCE MEMBERS.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GOP AGREES TO MEET WITH MUSLIM REBEL RETURNEES RE TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** PINS, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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